



Forest Fire Lookout Association
Eastern Washington Chapter
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EASTERN WASHINGTON 2015 CHAPTER REPORT

MEMBERSHIP: 56 members. 24 complimentary copies of the Lookout Network sent; 21 by email (PDF) and 3 by postal mail.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Ending Balance of \$1,966.85

ACTIVITIES: Your Eastern Washington Chapter money went towards one worthy project this year. A \$500 matching contribution to the \$500 FFLA Restoration Grant given towards the rehabilitation of North Twenty Mile Lookout on the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest. The project was initiated and controlled by Bob Pheifer in collaboration with Ray Kresek and Fire Lookout Museum. The contribution was made possible by memorial donations received from the Mark Coleman family. Mark Coleman was a timber cruiser / firefighter employed by the Washington DNR for many years. He had longed to be a fire lookout but did not get the chance. Member Bob Pheifer did a tremendous amount of research, leg work and just plain work leading up to the near completion of the N20M's restoration.

FFLA members Bev and Charley Heebner, Pat Threewit along with Dick Gilman showed up for another work party towards the restoration of Big Butte Lookout on the Umatilla NF. Dick also stepped up into the role of lookout steward. Final touches on the cab were completed and all look forward to getting it and the tower back up next summer.

Members Jim McNally and Ron Marvin, recently retired and longtime friends, volunteered with the Sullivan Lake RD-Colville NF to perform some maintenance and restoration on Salmo Mountain Lookout and environs. They made initial consultations with the District Ranger and received enthusiastic support. However, a severe fire season and forest closures interfered with their plans and no work was started. Both men had the pleasure of being assigned to this lookout approximately 45 years ago and viewed their experience as one of the most unique and rewarding times in their young lives. Jim staffed Salmo the summers of 1969-1971 and Ron staffed seasons of 1972 and 1973. It is hoped this lookout can become a rental with volunteer lookout duty in the future.

Interest in South Baldy Lookout on the Colville NF led to your Director being invited to participate in an assessment tour of the LO. Though not used by the CNF for some time, the Kaniksu/Idaho Panhandle NFs had used it and continues to demonstrate continued interest in using it again. It is hoped the lookout can be put back into service and placed into the rental program when not staffed.

Members In The News: Ray and Rita Kresek hosted a FFLA Weekend at the Fire Lookout Museum in July. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get-together and lookout tours arranged by Ray. With the 2015 FFLA Conference being held in California, many would not have otherwise had the chance to enjoy the company of fellow lookout enthusiasts.

LOOKOUTS: 2015 was a record breaking fire season for Eastern Washington. South Baldy Lookout on the CNF was seriously threatened, the Buck Mountain Lookout near Loup Loup had several of its tower members burnt and the historic D-6 on Spokane Mountain was destroyed.

OBJECTIVES: Continued support of the restoration of North Twenty Mile Lookout, Big Butte Lookout, Salmo Mountain Lookout, and South Baldy Lookout. Continue volunteer offers to help in repairs to Buck Mountain Lookout. Investigate fire losses to historic remains of former lookouts such as the historic 1942 Plan #70 Individual Latrine at the Marble Mountain Lookout site and the original c.1930 open air privy and tripod supported #9 phone line at the Taylor Ridge Lookout site; both in the Kettle Crest range of mountains on the CNF.

Rod Fosback
Eastern Washington Director